

State of the Chugach

FY2012



Chugach National Forest Annual Report & Overview



Welcome to the Chugach National Forest



Welcome to the Chugach National Forest, the third largest, and the most northerly, in the National Forest System. People have lived, worked and visited the Chugach for generations, and Alaska Natives have fished, hunted and celebrated here since time immemorial. The Chugach is a place where distinctive cultures, customs and ways of life converge – urban and rural residents alike come for subsistence, work and adventure.

The Forest is literally the backyard to half of Alaska's people, and we work hard to meet the needs of our diverse stakeholders. In the following pages you'll see a snapshot of our employees' accomplishments in 2012, including their:

- Work with communities to provide economic value
- Engagement with youth and communities in our Chugach Children's Forest Service
- Efforts to highlight the unique local and global connections of the Chugach National Forest
- Leadership in strategic partnerships and community collaborations
- Connection with diverse audiences for employment and services

This past year was also notable for a major office move. In June 2012, the Chugach National Forest Supervisor's Office along with the USFS Alaska Region State & Private Forestry and Pacific Northwest Research Station moved into the Alaska Railroad's historic renovated Freight Shed in Ship Creek near downtown Anchorage.

The move marked a return to the Forest's historic roots. Within two years of its inception in 1907, the Chugach National Forest had grown to encompass most of modern day Anchorage, including Ship



Ship Creek in pre-Forest Service Days, circa 1924.

Creek, site of one of the Forest's early offices. One of our employees at that time, Jack Brown (and his wife Nellie), was the first permanent resident of Anchorage. Jack and Nellie's first tent in Ship Creek served as their home and Forest Service headquarters. In 1917 the Forest Supervisor recommended removing the area from the Forest, in part because of construction on the Railroad. By 1919, the area had been withdrawn from the Forest.

We're proud of our historic connection to all the communities we serve, and are pleased this link/bond has come full circle in Anchorage. I encourage you to visit us at our new location, and more importantly, to get outside and enjoy all the opportunities the Chugach National Forest has to offer.

Terri Marceron
Terri Marceron
Chugach National Forest Supervisor



AKRR CEO Christopher Aadnesen, Mayor Dan Sullivan, Senator Mark Begich, Deputy Regional Forester Ruth Monaghan and Chugach National Forest Supervisor Terri Marceron cut the ribbon for the grand opening of the new Chugach National Forest offices.

THE CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST

EST 1907

Roughly the size of New Hampshire, its 5.4 million acres serve as the accessible backyard for half of Alaska's population. The forest has been continuously inhabited by Alaska Natives for more than 10,000 years; the first nations include the Chugach, Eyak, Ahtna and Dena'ina Athabaskan.



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On the Horizon for 2013: Forest Plan Revision

On January 31, 2013 we announced the beginning of the first phase of a three year planning process to revise the 2002 forest plan under a new National Forest System Planning Rule. The forest plan provides direction for managing resources and activities such as recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, historic and sacred sites, vegetation, mineral exploration and development, and timber.

During phase one, also known as the "assessment," the Forest Service will identify and evaluate existing information about ecological, economic and social conditions and trends related to the Forest and Southcentral Alaska.

The resulting assessment report will provide a solid base of current information for phases two, drafting the revised plan and developing an environmental impact statement (EIS), and three, developing a monitoring strategy.

Last February the Chugach announced that it was selected as one of eight national forests across the country to revise its forest plan under the new planning rule. The Forest was selected because of its robust engagement with the public during development and implementation of the 2002 forest plan. The public is invited to engage across all three years!

LEARN MORE AT WWW.FS.USDA.GOV/CHUGACH

ECONOMIC ENGINE - RECREATION & TOURISM

THE FOREST & THE FUTURE ...



With two whistle stops in place, the Forest Service and Alaska Railroad are focused on tying them together. Volunteers and youth crews will help build a 10-mile trail and dispersed campsites

along the route. Spencer Bench Cabin, when finished in 2013, will offer incredible views of Spencer Glacier from its alpine meadow.

Outfitter and guided services are being vetted for the Spencer site. Proposals will be solicited based upon the vision of the Forest Plan and Whistle Stop Business Plan to provide recreation opportunities while maintaining a backcountry experience.

SPENCER WHISTLE STOP



One of the forest's newest attractions, the Spencer Whistlestop has grown in popularity each season and we anticipate another banner year as the Whistle Stops and the trail that ties them together continue to develop.

We've added two pavilions made from beautiful and sturdy Alaska yellow cedar shipped up from our sister forest the Tongass. There is now a vault toilet midway on the trail, and visitors can now appreciate the glacier while standing on the new lakeside viewing platform, complete with interpretive signs. New aggregate covers the trail, and it conforms to accessibility standards.

PLACER RIVER BRIDGE



The new Placer River Bridge is the first major step in extending the Spencer Whistle Stop trail to Grandview and on to the town of Moose Pass. Built with 2010 ARRA funds, the bridge is an impressive feat of engineering set in appropriately impressive surroundings. As it stands astride the Placer River, it is the longest single-span timber-trussed bridge in North America.

Shipped in modules from Oregon, the bridge was assembled on-site, with construction on both sides meeting in the middle. Only the walking planks remained to be put in place when winter came. When it is finished in early 2013, the bridge will be a vital link in a growing world-class trail system.

A YEAR-ROUND DESTINATION

Located in south central Alaska just 50 miles north of Anchorage, the Chugach forms a great arc around Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska, more than 200 miles from the Kenai Peninsula to the remote and wild Copper River Delta. It is literally the backyard to half of Alaska's people. Within 5.4 million acres three forests exist within one: there is something to appeal to almost everyone at any time of the year. Head out on your own or with one of approximately 150 outfitters and guides operating on the Chugach National Forest.

THE KENAI PENINSULA is less than an hour drive from Anchorage and from there access to hiking, biking, camping, picnicking, and wildlife watching is wide open. There are over 520 miles of trails, from easy family-friendly loops to multi-day routes. With 41 remote cabins, and 15 campgrounds with more than 400 campsites for rent scattered around the forest, you *can* get away from it all.

THE COPPER RIVER DELTA is the largest wetland in the Western Hemisphere. Millions of birds stop on the Delta to rest and feed while migrating between the arctic in the summer and winter habitat far to the south. Trumpeter swans and the dusky Canada goose stay for the summer. The Delta is home year round for bears, moose, bald eagles, and wolves. Have your camera and binoculars ready for whatever the Delta shows you.

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND provides excellent opportunities for adventure, solitude and wildlife observation. The Sound has more tidewater glaciers than any other region in North America and is encompassed by the 5.4 million acre Chugach National Forest. Immense ice fields surround this inland waterway and give rise to magnificent tidewater glaciers that tumble to the sea. Icebergs and post-glacial terrain are hallmarks of the landscape, offering a unique glimpse of geology and reforestation in action.

ECONOMIC ENGINE

MINERALS MANAGEMENT

The search for and production of minerals on the Chugach National Forest remained vigorous during 2012.

Placer gold was produced from numerous drainages on the Forest by nearly 50 authorized operations. Many additional small-scale operators worked towards their initial discovery, driven by gold prices above \$1700 per ounce. Untold numbers of recreationalists also tried their hand at gold recovery using gold pans and other small hand tools.

In 2012, more than 100,000 tons of mineral materials, primarily sand & gravel, were produced to support numerous road construction infrastructure projects, winter highway traction sand, and for use as decorative stone. Mineral materials are also made available to residents by free-use permit for personal use and 61 individuals requested and received permits during 2012.

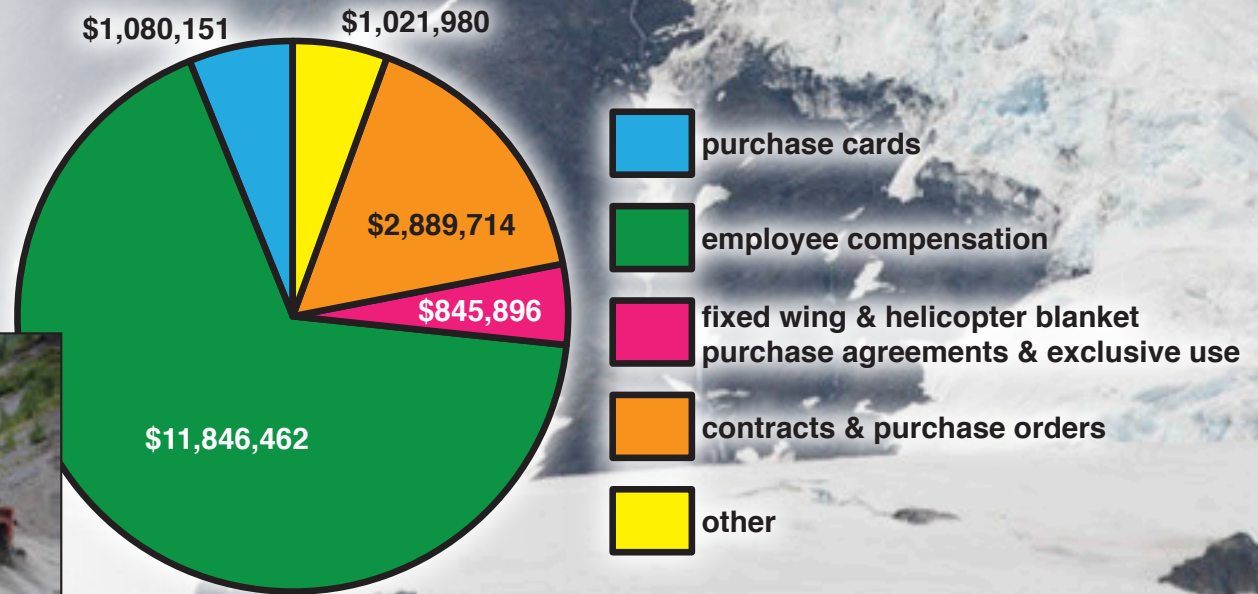


Large mechanical operation at Hope Mining Company on Resurrection Creek.



Screening traction sand at 33 Mile of the Seward Highway.

TOTAL FUNDS OBLIGATED IN FY 2012:



\$17,684,203

Forest employment numbers

- 127 permanent employees living and investing in surrounding communities
- More than 80 seasonal employees hired in 2012

ECONOMIC ENGINE - SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS

The Chugach National Forest has two Resource Advisory Committees (RACs) – **Kenai Peninsula-Anchorage Borough and Prince William Sound** – that solicit and prioritize projects to be funded by **Title II of The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act** (a bill passed into law by the United States Congress on October 30, 2000) of resource advisory committees for projects on federal lands, or returned to the Treasury. The RACs, comprised of citizen advisors from communities across the Forest, consider projects that improve the maintenance of existing infrastructure, implement stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems, and restore and improve land health and water quality. The projects benefit local economies, residents and visitors across Southcentral, Alaska.

Kenai Peninsula Projects - [KP]

Bean Creek Watershed Vegetation v _____	\$40,000.00
Connector Trails	\$21,800.00
Cooper Creek Campground North-Stream Bank Stability	\$24,806.00
Cooperative Weed Management Round 1	\$60,000.00
Cooperative Weed Management Round 2	\$47,000.00
Cooperative Weed Management Round 3	\$22,500.00
Crow Creek Bridge Deck Repair	\$25,000.00
Crow Creek Road Maintenance	\$58,500.00
Devils Integrated Vegetation Management	\$15,000.00
East Fork Sixmile Road	\$31,500.00
Girdwood Nordic Trail Improvements	\$21,205.00
Girdwood Nordic Trail Improvements Round 2	\$29,666.00
Glacier Creek Hand Tram Safety Evaluation & Repairs	\$50,000.00
Historic Cabins Stabilization	\$38,375.00
Historic Cabin Stabilization Round 2	\$10,887.00
Kenai Peninsula Restoration Corps: SCA _____	\$21,205.00
Kenai Peninsula Restoration Corps: SCA Round 2 _____	\$29,700.00
Malone Road Remediation	\$10,000.00
Portage Watershed Restoration Corps	\$42,213.00
Stetson Creek Trail Reconstruction	\$46,631.00
Vagt Lake Trail Reconstruction	\$60,302.00

Prince William Sound Projects - [PWS]

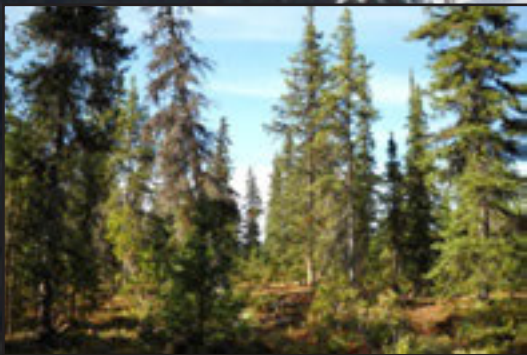
Alaganik 22 Mile Picnic Site	\$64,000
Alice Smith Trail	\$160,323
Childs Glacier North Trail	\$133,910
Coghill Lake Trail	\$66,650
Crater Lake Trail	\$129,844
Copper River Delta Invasive Plants _____	\$181,311
DU Nest Islands _____	\$107,800
Moose Browse	\$245,269
Pete Dahl Field Camp	\$25,000
Pipeline Lakes Cutthroat Trout	\$23,220
Portage Pass Trail	\$51,800
Shrode Lake Trail	\$43,250
Whittier Invasive Weeds	\$40,700
AK Geographic Campsite	\$188,729
Emerald Cove Trail	\$27,100
Galena Bay Tent Platforms	\$12,000
Horsetail Fall Trail	\$20,670
Naked Island Debris	\$53,600
Odiak Pond Restoration	\$121,236
Marine Debris Clean Up	\$100,000
Shakespeare Creek Culvert	\$442,000
CR Highway 25 Mile Spawning Channel	\$46,516
Cordova Airport Display Update	\$39,440
Eyak Mountain Trail	\$40,682
Hydro-axe	\$120,000
Ibeck OHV Trail Re-route	\$132,285
Knowles Head (Zen Spot)	\$38,200
Mineral Creek Public Access	\$86,300
PWS Clean Up	\$11,130
Whittier Weeds II	\$7,468
AK Geo Invasives	\$78,146

RAC Funds: the origin

Title II funds were allocated from 2008 - 2011 to states with forest lands on the basis of timber receipts or formula calculations that incorporated acres of federal land, timber receipts, and an income adjustment based on per capita personal income by county. Funding was authorized to be used for projects that enhance forest ecosystems and improve cooperative relationships.

Visit www.fs.usda.gov/main/pts/specialprojects for more background on SRS Title II legislation and history.

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS - Project Highlights



BEAN CREEK WATERSHED VEGETATION ENHANCEMENT – [KP]

In May, 2012 we joined RAC funds with Chugach National Forest funds (wildlife and hazardous fuels) to treat 167 acres in the project area.

An Alaskan firm won the contract to implement mechanical vegetation treatments. The contractor will work during both the summer and winter for up to two years to complete the project. A small portion of RAC funds are also being used in 2012 for Forest Service contract administration.



CANADA GOOSE NEST ISLAND MONITORING – [PWS]

Nest islands built to help the Dusky population recover from lasting effects of the '964 earthquake continue to meet with success. From 1984-2012, nest success on artificial islands has averaged 65%, nearly double that of natural sites in the

area. In 2012 alone, artificial islands built through the combined efforts the Chugach, its partners, and volunteers, produced 86 successful nests.

CRATER LAKE TRAIL RENOVATION, COPPER RIVER DELTA – [PWS]

Chugach Children's Forest launched two stewardship expeditions in 2012 to bring under-represented youth from a variety of cultural and economic backgrounds to the stunning Prince William Sound for habitat restoration projects. These kayak-based expeditions also focused on recreational opportunities available on the Chugach National Forest, and participants included seventeen teens from around the Chugach including Valdez, Tatitlek, Whittier, Girdwood, and Anchorage.

Restoration projects included weed removal and trail and campsite improvements.



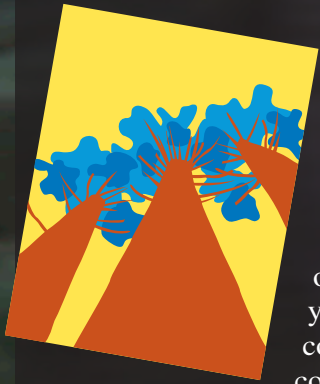
photo courtesy of Alaska Geographic

KENAI RIVER BANK RESTORATION BY YOUTH RESTORATION CORP – [KP]

The Youth Restoration Corps (YRC) completed stream bank restoration along degraded stream banks of the Kenai River in the vicinity of the Cooper Creek Campground on the North side of the highway.



CHUGACH CHILDREN'S FOREST



The Chugach Children's Forest is a partnership led by the USDA Forest Service and Alaska Geographic offering Alaska's diverse youth, educators, and communities opportunities to connect with the magnificent Chugach National Forest and neighboring public lands.

A vast and inspiring landscape, the Chugach is the "backyard" for half of Alaska's population. People come from around the world to experience this

landscape but children and families from many Anchorage neighborhoods have never set foot in the forest. Urban and rural youth alike often lack the resources to participate in life-changing experiences in the outdoors.

The Chugach Children's Forest is about experiencing both the joy that comes from simply going outdoors, and helping us all understand and have a part in solving the challenges of today and tomorrow, from climate change to growing the next generation of public land leaders.

Since 2009, over twenty thousand youth, educators and volunteers have been engaged in the Chugach Children's Forest.



Spring Field trips

Nearly 600 youth participated in sponsored field trips covering projects like weed pulls, garbage removal, plant identification, bird surveys, mapping and trail clearing.



Marine Stewardship Expeditions

Eight middle school students from Chenega Bay, Cordova, Valdez, and the Anchorage area to PWS to monitor oil spill recovery efforts and remove marine debris from area beaches. Funding came from EVOS (through the Gulf of Alaska Keepers), PWSRCAC, Chugach National Forest, and REI.



iTREC! – Iditarod Trail to Every Classroom

In its 3rd year of providing educators with place-based service learning skills using the Iditarod National Historic Trail as its model, iTREC! has trained 40 teachers who are reaching nearly 3000 K-12 students in rural and urban communities along the Iditarod trail.



Kid's Hike and Fish Day

Healthful outdoor exercise, education about the forest ecosystem, and a lesson on a variety of fish topics what more could you want? And best of all, the kids have a fun day of catching fish and then eating the fish they catch, cooked by Forest Service chefs.

GET OUT! GO WILD! CHANGE THE FUTURE!



American Hiking society Volunteers

Six members (ages 22-65) of American Hiking Society spent a week on the Chugach working on invasive plant removal.



Ice Patch Expedition

Thirteen Alaska Native youth, ages 14-18, spent a week in Devil's Pass along the Resurrection Pass Trail practicing archaeology and discovering more about their cultural heritage.



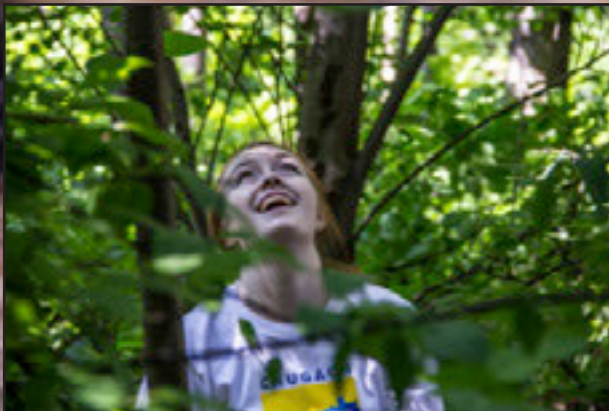
Community Service

Last fall, Alaska Geographic and the Chugach National Forest teamed up with classes from Anchorage School District to remediate wetlands at the mouth of Campbell Creek. Kids from all over town participated in projects combining an naturalist's appreciation of the area with data-driven studies.



Habitat Restoration Kayaking Expeditions

CCF launched two new stewardship expeditions bringing youth from varied cultural and economic backgrounds to the Sound for habitat restoration. These expeditions also focused on recreational opportunities on the Chugach National Forest, and included seventeen teens from around the Chugach including Valdez, Tatitlek, Whittier, Girdwood, and Anchorage.



Micro-Expeditions

21 youth ages 12-19 participated in a variety of day-long stewardship programs for "veteran" CCF participants. These involved weed pulls in Anchorage, Portage Valley, and along the Russian River

MORE THAN 2 DOZEN PARTNERS CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES TO SUPPORT PROGRAMMING

Anchorage REI • Prince William Sound Science Center • Alaska Center For Coastal Studies • Alaska Airlines • Alaska Pacific University • Alaska Teen Media Institute, Spirit Of Youth • Alaska Railroad • Anchorage Park Foundation • Anchorage School District • Anchorage Waterways Council • Audubon Alaska • Babkin Charters • Begich Middle School • Brave New Alaskan Voices • Chugach School District • Content Producers Guild • Copper River Watershed Project • Highland Tech High School • Kenaitze Indian Tribe • King Career Center • Mears Middle School • Municipality Of Anchorage Parks And Recreation • North Face • NEEF • Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council • Quteksak Native Tribe • Student Conservation Association • University Of Alaska Anchorage

PARTNERSHIPS



HOMETOWN U: UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE & CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST

U.S. Forest Service fisheries biologist Mark Chilcote, UAA biology professor Douglas Causey and three students, Maio Nishkian, Kalie Dickey and John Flanagan, went hunting for young salmon in Portage Valley creeks and ponds. Using salmon eggs in minnow traps, success came Nov. 4 at the North Fork Williwaw Pond, a restored gravel-mining site fed by groundwater.

They captured 33 juvenile chinook, two coho and 13 Dolly Varden on their second trip out. "This is the first documentation of chinook in this area," said Chilcote. He was excited enough to share the team's findings with Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologist Dan Bosch who said it was the first ever record of kings in the area.

The UAA students figured the salmon would behave as efficiently as possible, and want to be near groundwater sources with raised temperatures and in slow-moving water. And that's what they found.

Working as a team, they trapped and anesthetized the fish, and marked and measured them. Then they were revived and set free.

The students compared their findings with results from two BLM surveys done by interns in 1976 and 1977 which failed to identify any chinook juveniles in the area, though they found coho, stickleback and Dolly Varden.

In a later report to the class and to field scientists from the ADF&G and the U.S. Forest Service, students commented on how old the previous survey data was. "Sampling has not been done for our entire lifetimes," noted Nishkian, a detail greeted with laughter.

In the Q & A that followed, Forest Supervisor Terri Marceron commented on how difficult it can be to manage the forest with such outdated data and how welcome the students' fresh numbers were.

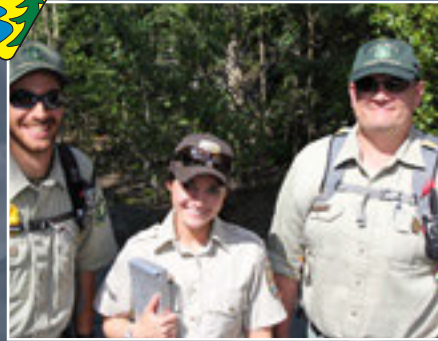
The work was part of Prof. Causey's new course "Exploration Ecology" pairing UAA students with field biologists, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service.

"I wanted to give students the opportunity to develop research projects that had real impact on what we know about the Alaska environment and they certainly succeeded," Causey said. Several of the students planned on continuing the work during the spring semester.

This is an excerpt from a story by By Kathleen McCoy originally titled **Hometown U: Portage Valley a prime habitat for troubled chinook** and published December 29, 2012 on the Anchorage Daily News website.



PARTNERSHIPS



Chugach National Forest **AVALANCHE** Information Center



The Chugach National Forest Avalanche Information Center (CNFAIC) is one of approximately fifteen agency avalanche centers across the nation affiliated with the US



The CNFAIC Crew hard at work

Forest Service National Avalanche Center. The CNFAIC is a partnership between Chugach National Forest and a non-profit Friends Group that provides fund-raising, outreach, and financial support to the avalanche center. The CNFAIC provides an important and popular service to the general public in one of the most actively used winter recreation regions of Alaska, a state with the highest per capita avalanche fatality rate in the nation.

The center's mission is to provide current and accurate avalanche and mountain weather information and offer basic avalanche awareness education. Public safety is of primary concern, and the CNFAIC strives to deliver clear and concise information that benefits any user, from the beginner backcountry traveler to the professional avalanche forecaster. The CNFAIC advises backcountry users on current avalanche danger and provides daily avalanche bulletins using industry-standard descriptions. CNFAIC also offers educational events, giving lectures and backcountry sessions. These opportunities are provided free of charge to the public, in classrooms, and to user groups who request CNFAIC's special expertise.

KEVIN WRIGHT NAMED TO "TOP 40 UNDER 40"



The CNFAIC's own Kevin Wright was chosen by the Alaska Journal of Commerce to be on its prestigious annual list of Alaska's younger movers and shakers. The "Top 40 under 40" honors those who have a positive and powerful influence on our state, and in Mr Wright's case, on our Forest. The Chugach is proud of him and happy to brag about his service above and beyond the call of duty.

ABOUT F-CNFAIC

Formed in 2003 F-CNFAIC helps pay forecaster salaries, and operates the instruments and webcams that are extremely valuable in assisting forecasters. Backcountry enthusiasts have come to rely on this instrumentation and in the past few winters weather stations were established at three additional sites in South Central Alaska: Seattle Ridge (with webcams), Fresno Ridge, and Marmot Ridge near Hatcher Pass.

PARTNERSHIPS - EVENTS/FESTIVALS



CORDOVA FUNGUS FESTIVAL

Each September Cordova welcomes gourmands and gourmets from everywhere to come and have a little fun, cook up a storm and hang out with the locals.



As a new neighbor to the Alaska Railroad, the Chugach naturally took part in the Alaska Railroad Days festivities, providing info on recreation opportunities and the Chugach Children's Forest. There were also reports of Smokey Bear sightings.



national get outdoors day

Nature-related games & prizes, invertebrate sampling, birding stations along the boardwalk, captive birds from the Bird Treatment and Learning Center, educational animals from the Alaska Zoo, kid-friendly archery range, fly and spin casting practice, plant walks.



CORDOVA SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL

A great opportunity to watch the millions of shorebirds that rest and feed here. In addition to bird watching, the community sponsored Festival offers a myriad of activities and workshops.



GIRDWOOD FUNGUS FESTIVAL

Enjoy is all things fungus in Girdwood. Join the FUN by taking part in a run, heading out on fungus walks, learn how to use fungus to dye fabric, eat some marvelous food at the Fungus Fair Formal, or listen to the experts talk about their favorite subject.



COPPER RIVER WILD! SALMON FESTIVAL

Every July, join any of five fun runs, named after the 5 different salmon species, rock out after the 5 different salmon species, rock out at the Salmon Jam sessions, take part in a host of salmon-centered crafts and eat the best salmon around.

LOCAL/GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

TERN LAKE HAZARDOUS FUEL



In 2005-06 Volunteer Fire Departments, USFS, Alaska Division of Forestry and local groups worked together to develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) identifying fuel hazards, values at risk from wildfire, and the area's fire history.

The project removed dead and dying spruce from 10 units (390 acres) reducing fuel loading which in turn would reduce the intensity of a possible wildland fire. Various other treatments done in individual units included thinning of understory trees by chainsaw and mechanical piling of dead and downed material by a private contractor, providing a fuel-wood source for the local community. Limbs and bole wood were chipped in units adjacent to private land to reduce both smoke impacts from burning residual slash and the potential threat of an escaped prescribed wildfire.

The project is completed except for some pile burning scheduled this fall when fuel and weather conditions allow safe removal.

ADVENTURE & COMMUNITY

The Chugach, along with our sister forest the Tongass has again crafted an award-winning poster series, available for free.

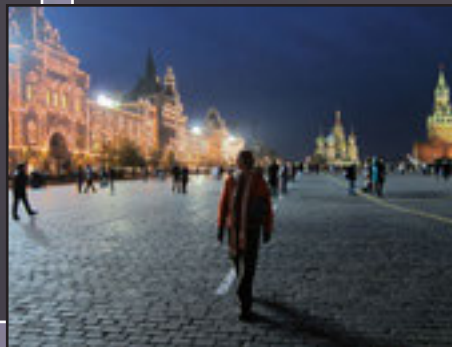
And there's more: they're a hit! They've won awards from the Alaska chapters of the American Institute of Graphic Arts and the Public Relations Society of America.

The posters are still turning heads a year later, and are a popular souvenir of a trip to the Chugach.



In October of 2012 two Chugach employees selected by USDA's International Programs travelled to Siberia to consult and provide training for the local trail organization at the foot of Lake Baikal. For the Chugach employees the chance to work on the shores of the famous body of water and to share their specialized skills with the well-spoken NGOs (English was the lingua-franca) was both personally and professionally gratifying. And at the end of two weeks, the Greater Baikal Trail

Organization was much better versed in how to plan for and appeal to the burgeoning number of foreign visitors.



SUBSISTENCE HARVEST SUMMARY

Freshwater fish permits for Prince William Sound and the Copper River Delta
66 permits issued in 2012 – anglers harvested 392 coho and 64 sockeye

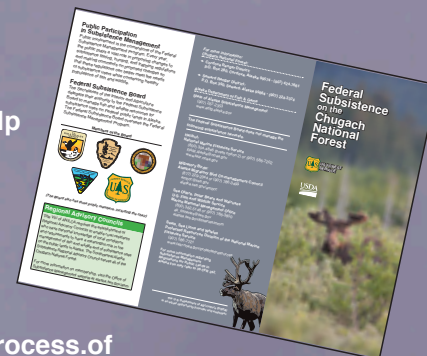
Unit 6C moose hunt – Copper River Delta
2012 – 586 Cordova residents applied for 21 bull moose permits and 40 antlerless moose permits; 16 bull moose and 33 antlerless moose were reported harvested

Unit 7 and 15 Moose
2012 – 31 permits issued to residents of Cooper Landing for Unit 7 – 1 moose harvested
20 permits issued to residents of Hope for Unit 7
28 permits issued to residents of Cooper Landing for Unit 15

Unit 7 Caribou
19 permits issued to residents of Hope – 2 caribou harvested

Russian River Salmon
75 permits issued to Cooper Landing residents – harvested 998 sockeye salmon
29 permits issued to Hope residents – harvested 287 sockeye salmon

This year, the Chugach, with help from the public and the public's representatives, designed a subsistence publication to help simply the process of where to go to find out exactly how to get what you want.



LOCAL/GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

DUSKY CANADA GOOSE NEST ISLANDS

The Forest Service along with partners such as Duck's Unlimited have installed artificial nest islands in ponds across the vast wetland of the Copper River Delta to provide safe habitat for the area's thousands of Dusky Canada geese. The artificial nest islands have twice as many successful nests as geese that nest on shore. Ducks Unlimited and the Prince William Sound Resource Advisory Council (PWS RAC) funded the building and installation of 24 new nest islands to replace nest islands that have been removed from use because of storm damage or other reasons.



TRIBAL CONNECTIONS

Alaska Natives have fished, hunted, subsisted, and lived on lands now established as the Chugach National Forest since times immemorial. The Forest is the traditional home of the Chugach Eskimo, Eyak Indian, and some Ahtna Athaskan Indian peoples. The cultural identities and subsistence lifestyles of these peoples are linked to forest and coastal Southcentral Alaska ecosystems.

The Chugach National Forest maintains relationships with 12 federally recognized tribes, 12 village corporations, three regional groups, two Native regional non-profits, and two ANCSA Regional Corporations (Chugach Alaska and Cook Inlet Region, Inc.). The relationship and consultation extends beyond the Forest boundaries to tribes currently are not located on the Chugach, but have historical ties to this land. The Forest is also a strong participant in the USFS Alaska Region's Alaska Tribal Leaders Council (ATLC). These monthly meetings offer the opportunity to advance cooperative relationships, collaboration, and government-to-government partnerships in promoting sustainable forests, resources and communities.

The Chugach is committed to integrating the cultural heritage and traditional indigenous knowledge of Alaska Natives into the Forest's programs and processes.

IN 2012 more than 38 consultations took place between the Chugach and tribes, corporations, and regional groups. We are also a strong participant in the Alaska Region's Alaska Tribal Leaders Council. The monthly meetings of the Council offer the opportunity to advance cooperative relationships, collaboration and government-to-government partnerships in promoting sustainable forests, resources, and communities.

Last year the Forest established a formal memorandum of understanding with the Eyak Corporation that will allow us to formally partner on mutually beneficial projects. Eyak was also awarded a contract for more than \$150,000 for a Forest project. We awarded a 9500.00 grant for Kenaitze youth to participate in an Ice Patch Survey project on Forest Service Land. The Forest hosted two Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) interns for summer 2012. The ANSEP students worked on wildlife, public outreach, ecology, and engineering projects. The Forest also held 5 reburials at the request of Chugach Alaska Corporation. Among the year's highlights was our attendance at a land conveyance ceremony. The event celebrated the culmination of a successful collaboration of a successful collaborative effort in which CIRI, BLM, FWS and the FS worked together to identify a resolution to CIRI's land claims in the Russian River area.

DIVERSITY NETWORKS



ALASKA NATIVE SCIENCE & ENGINEERING PROGRAM

ANSEP's objective is to effect a systemic change in the hiring patterns of Indigenous Americans in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) by increasing the number of individuals on a career path to leadership in STEM fields.

ANSEP students at every level are successful at rates far exceeding national and state numbers.

- ANSEP Middle School students complete algebra 1 before graduating from eighth grade at a rate of 83%. The national average is 26%.
- More than half of ANSEP high school students graduate engineering ready. 4% of minority students nationwide do so.
- More than 70% of all ANSEP students who begin BS STEM degrees graduate.

ANSEP INTERNS FOR 2012

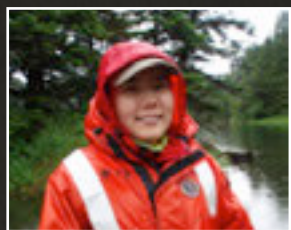
Abby Fisher



Abby Fisher is a recent graduate of Mt. Edgecumbe High School in Sitka, Alaska. She is a natural science major at the University of

Alaska Anchorage focused on environmental issues. During her internship at the SO, she rotated through the office, spending a week each with ecology, public affairs, wildlife, and GIS.

Clarissa Zeller

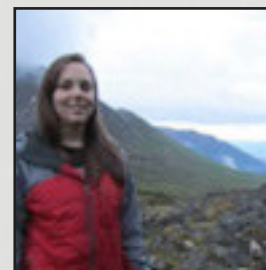


Clarissa Zeller worked on the Cordova Ranger District as a Biology Intern. She is a 2nd-year ANSEP student and a sophomore

at the University of Alaska Fairbanks majoring in Biological Sciences. She spent a majority of her 8-week internship working on the Dusky Canada Geese nest islands and helping build a new ATV trail.



mobilize green
YOUTH. ACTION. IMPACT



Haley Huff, a geological sciences student at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA), is the USFS Alaska Region's MobilizeGreen intern on the Chugach National Forest. MobilizeGreen internships are developmental

opportunities for college students or recent graduates interested in acquiring experience in natural and cultural resources and developing awareness of Green and Environmental Sustainability strategies. Interns work with professional Forest Service employees, partners and the public to strengthen volunteerism and service on the National Forests and Grasslands.

Haley is assisting the Chugach to improve efforts to engage individuals and local organizations in volunteer opportunities. She works closely with Alaska Geographic and other Chugach Children's Forest partners.

FOREST HIGHLIGHTS...



GLACIER RANGER DISTRICT TURNAGAIN PASS

About 60 miles south of Anchorage on the scenic Seward Highway, Turnagain Pass is the literal highpoint of the drive south.

While it's a beautiful spot in the summer time (see the cover of this publication) Turnagain really comes into its own during the winter. The yards of snow that fall there each from fall to late spring attract backcountry enthusiasts of all persuasions.

With the road acting as a dividing line, skiers and snowboarders attack the east side while snowmachiners carve through the powder on the west. It's world-class sport for everyone when the snow flies in Turnagain, sometimes into the sunny evenings of May.



CORDOVA RANGER DISTRICT ALAGANIK SLOUGH

Alaganik Slough offers visitors an opportunity to explore the wetlands of the Copper River Delta. At Mile 17 on the Copper River Highway, turn off onto a 3.3-mile road that leads to the slough. The boardwalk provides a way to immerse yourself in the coastal wetlands of the Copper River Delta.

Wildlife is most abundant at Alaganik during spring and fall. Visitors may look over the expansive wetlands and sight a variety of animals including trumpeter swans, moose, brown bear, and shorebirds.



SEWARD RANGER DISTRICT PORCUPINE CAMPGROUND

Porcupine Campground, located conveniently on the edge of Hope and the end of the Hope Highway, has been newly remodelled. Boasting 34 newly redone campsites 14 of which border on the scenic waters of Turnagain Arm, literally yards away, Porcupine has a distinct (and popular) end-of-the-road vibe. Make sure to reserve early.

You can't get any farther down the highway than this, unless you set out on foot along the Arm for Gull Rock, or head up to Hope Point Trail, for a spectacular and well-deserved view of the entire area. If you go up, keep your eyes peeled for mountain goats on the high peaks.



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